

department must have a medical director under whom all licensure decisions of health professionals must have responsibility, and that medical director must be a licensed physician. So we attempted to reflect the concern of too much of a change from the current status of the director of health being a physician, and at least require, if that isn't the case for this new department, at least for those areas that are licensed and regulated for health professionals there will be a physician in charge of that activity. We also require under the committee amendment, currently the bill requires a report to the Legislature and the Governor. This is the first step in a series of steps that will need to be taken to reform our health and human services system. It's a little bit like the welfare changes that we went through the last couple of years where we have had to take additional steps as time has gone on, and this will take that sort of effort as well. The first step is this bill. The second step will be follow-up legislation next year, after a year of work with constituency groups to flesh out the details of the proposal. Anyway, the report that's required will, under this committee amendment, include draft legislation by December of this year, so that when we look in 1997, we will actually see the legislation and language of proposed changes prior to the start of the session. So that's one of the proposals in this. We also clarify a number of things in terms of transfer of employees and transfer of the Office of Juvenile Services. We do increase what is expected of these agency directors. Currently it's required they have an interest in health and human services. Now, under the committee amendment, they will have to have an expertise in health and human services. We also strengthen the Policy Secretary. Under this proposal we have the three departments, Health and Human Services, Regulation and Licensure, and Finance and Support. And the directors of these three departments will come together with a Policy Secretary, and those four individuals will form a Policy Cabinet which will then be advised by a partnership council, from the private and public sector across the state, of citizens. Anyway, in the Policy Cabinet, the thinking of the committee was that there was not enough strength for the Policy Secretary in the language of the original bill. And so we strengthen their duties, make them the Chair of both the cabinet and the partnership council and require confirmation by the Legislature. The attempt there is to be very clear that these three entities and their directors will come together and that there is an oversight, through the Policy Secretary and this